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News Release
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ISU Extension Offers Workshop on Beef Grid Marketing
NORTHEAST IOWA -- Today's beef industry is moving toward value-based marketing of finished cattle. This consists of selling cattle on a price formula that determines value of each individual animal based on quality grade and yield grade.

Current grid pricing systems differ from past ones because there are significant premiums offered for cattle achieving quality grades above low choice and for yield grades 1 and 2. However, producers must withstand discounts for lower quality grades and poorer yield grades, plus any cattle that do not meet weight specifications.

Cattlemen interested in learning more about how beef carcass value is established should plan to attend a Beef Grid Marketing Workshop on Nov. 29 at the Edgewood Locker or Nov. 30 at the Spillville Locker. The workshop is also appropriate for 4-H or FFA market beef or dairy beef exhibitors and their parents.

Each program will begin at 7 pm and participants will have an opportunity to see and evaluate real beef carcasses. They will have the opportunity to measure the ribeye area and fat on beef carcasses, examine how and where cattle deposit fat, and learn about marbling and its effect on the taste of meat. Participants will also learn about the beef grids used for carcass contests at local county fairs.

ISU Extension livestock specialists Dan Lane and Denise Schwab will lead the program. Pre-registration is requested by calling the ISU Extension-Clayton County office at 563-245-1451 or register online at www.extension.iastate.edu/clayton.
News Release

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Teresa Wiemerslage, Communications Coordinator, 563-794-0599, wiemer@iastate.edu

Risk and Margin Management Workshops for Cattle Feeders

WAUKON, OSAGE -- Cattle feeders know that controlling cost is just as important as protecting revenue. The key is to protect a profitable gross margin because great revenues mean little when costs also are high.

A series of risk and margin management workshops for cattle feeders will be held in December across northern Iowa. Land O Lakes Purina Feeds dealers are sponsoring the workshop in cooperation with the Iowa Beef Center and Iowa State University Extension.

In this hands-on workshop, producers will practice their risk management skills in a market simulation where they make marketing choices along the way. Producers will learn how to calculate a gross margin and set benchmarks that satisfy their risk tolerance. The online ISU Margin Tracker can help identify opportunities in the coming year.

Three workshops will be held. The dates and locations in northeast Iowa are Dec. 13 at the Osage Coop Elevator and Dec. 17 at the NICC Center in Waukon. The Waukon workshop is co-sponsored by Innovative Ag Services. All workshops will be from 9:30 am to 2:30 pm.

Preregistration is required, however the $25 fee to cover meal, promotion and room expenses will be payable at the time of the workshop. A minimum of 8 people is needed to hold the workshop and space is limited. To preregister and reserve your meal, contact Russ Euken for the Osage site at 641-231-1711 or reuken@iastate.edu or Denise Schwab for the Waukon site at 319-721-9624 or dschwab@iastate.edu.

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Annual Crop Clinic Set for Dec. 16

CHARLES CITY -- The annual Iowa State University Extension Chickasaw/Floyd Crop Clinic will be held on December 16 at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Charles City from 9:15 a.m. to 3 p.m. The morning program features ISU Extension climatologist Elwynn Taylor and plant pathologist Alison Robertson.

Taylor will discuss the crop weather outlook and associated grain prices. Robertson will review disease management strategies for corn and soybeans for the upcoming growing season.
Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. The noon meal is sponsored by Floyd County Ag Center, AgVantage FS, Cartersville Elevator, Floyd and Mitchell County Farm Bureau and ISU Extension. Attendees must pre-register for the meal through the Floyd County Extension Office, 641-228-1453.

There is no charge to attend, but there is a cost to receive Private Pesticide Applicator recertification. Licensed applicators must attend the 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. program, and pay the $20 re-certification fee. Certified Crop Advisor credits will also be available.

For more information, contact the Floyd County Extension office at 641-228-1453. Information can be accessed online at www.extension.iastate.edu/floyd.

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Crop Clinic Set for Dec. 16
ELKADER -- Iowa State University Extension in Clayton County is hosting a Crop Clinic on December 16 at Johnson’s Reception Hall in Elkader from 12:30 – 4:00 pm. The program features ISU Extension climatologist Elwynn Taylor, plant pathologist Alison Robertson and agronomist Brian Lang.

Taylor will discuss the crop weather outlook and associated grain prices. Robertson will review disease management strategies for corn and soybeans for the upcoming growing season.

Registration begins at noon. Refreshments are provided by Clayton County Farm Bureau and ISU Extension. There is no charge to attend, but there is a $20 cost to receive Private Pesticide Applicator recertification. Licensed applicators must attend the entire recertification part of the program. Certified Crop Advisor credits will also be available.

For more information, contact the Clayton County Extension office at 563-245-1451. Information can be accessed online at www.extension.iastate.edu/clayton.

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Other Releases
Ask the ISU Extension Garden Experts About: Rabbits, Mums and Schefflera
http://www.extension.iastate.edu/news/2010/nov/161102.htm
ISU Extension garden experts tell how to minimize rabbit damage to trees and shrubs in winter; how to prepare mums for winter and why schefflera drop leaves.

This information has been sent to you by Teresa Wiemerslage, Regional Communications Coordinator for Region 4 ISU Extension, wiemer@iastate.edu, 563-794-0599.

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